

March 3	Temperature				Precipitation		
	mean max	mean min	record max highest / lowest (year)	record min highest / lowest (year)	mean	record highest (year)	chance
San Diego	66	52	79 (1931) / 51 (1894)	59 (1989) / 38 (1894)	0.08	1.32 (1896)	24%
Santa Ana	70	49	90 (1936) / 57 (1976)	57 (1995) / 29 (1953)	0.11	2.54 (1938)	19%
Riverside	68	45	87 (1925) / 53 (1976)	54 (1995) / 30 (1966)	0.08	2.56 (1938)	21%
Escondido	69	46	83 (1936) / 54 (1935)	54 (1938) / 26 (1917)	0.12	3.59 (1938)	27%
Big Bear Lake	49	23	66 (1972) / 26 (1976)	38 (1972) / 3 (1966)	0.15	2.44 (1980)	24%
Idyllwild	56	27	72 (1972) / 31 (1976)	40 (1995) / 3 (1966)	0.19	2.88 (1980)	25%
Palomar Mountain	54	36	72 (1972) / 32 (1976)	48 (1994) / 16 (1966)	0.23	3.32 (1943)	20%
Victorville	66	36	84 (1967) / 45 (1966)	50 (1967) / 15 (1917)	0.04	0.89 (1983)	14%
Palm Springs	78	49	96 (1934) / 55 (1927)	61 (1934) / 32 (1971)	0.03	0.40 (1976)	9%
Borrego Springs	76	47	89 (1999) / 55 (1983)	62 (1999) / 30 (1971)	0.04	0.54 (1976)	15%

Mean temperatures and precipitation based on 1971-2000 normals. The year given is the year of latest occurrence.

Periods of record: San Diego temperature: 1872, precipitation: 1850. Santa Ana temperature: 1916, precipitation: 1906. Riverside: 1924. Escondido: 1900. Big Bear Lake: 1960. Idyllwild: 1943. Palomar Mountain: 1938. Victorville: 1917. Palm Springs temperature: 1917, precipitation: 1906. Borrego Springs temperature: 1965, precipitation: 1942.

On this day in...

2000: A waterspout was observed three miles west of La Jolla.

1992: A series of storms that began on 3.1 and ended on 3.7 brought one to four inches of rainfall and local flooding.

1983: A series of El Niño storms battered Southern California, which began on 3.1 and ended on this day. Rain measured up to 18 inches from Santa Barbara to LA. Waves of 15 to 20 feet hit the coast around LA on 3.2 and on this day. The lowest barometric pressure on record at San Diego was measured on this day: 29.37 inches.

1981: A storm that began on 3.1 and ended on this day spread three inches of rain along the coast and five to six inches in the local mountains. Widespread street flooding, mud slides, and power outages resulted.

1976: A storm that started on 3.2 and ended on 3.4 brought 20 inches of snowfall to Running Springs.

1966: It was 3° in Idyllwild, the lowest temperature on record for March and the third lowest on record. The low of 16° in Palomar Mountain also was the lowest temperature on record for March.

1943: A major storm struck the San Bernardino Mountains and nearby areas on this day through 3.5. During one eleven hour period, 5.25 inches of rain fell in Crestline. Victorville had a storm total of 1.82 inches. Only minor flood damage and closed roads were reported around Fontana.

1938: Thunderstorms developed each day starting on 2.28 and ending on 3.4. One was killed by lightning in Corona. In Riverside 2.56 inches of rain fell, the greatest daily rainfall on record for March. On this day 2.80 inches fell at Descanso. 3.59 inches fell at Escondido, the greatest daily amount on record for March, and the storm total was 6.95 inches. For the storm 210 were reported dead or missing in flooding across Southern California, 45 in Orange County, of which 43 perished in Mexican-American Atwood from an eight-foot wall of water. Hundreds were injured. The Santa Ana River flooded, inundating nearly all of northern Orange County. Catastrophic damage hit more than 1,500 residences. 400 cabins and buildings were washed away in and around San Antonio Canyon. The Whitewater River flooded, isolating Palm Springs.

1917: It was 26° in Escondido, the lowest temperature on record for March.